

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2726

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1541

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU CY

SUBJ: REACTION IN ATHENS TO ROUND FIVE CYPRUS TALKS IN VIENNA

REF ATHENS 1499

1. GREEK PRESS FEBRUARY 19 CONTINUED TO GIVE CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE RESUMED CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY IN VIENNA. OVERALL TONE OF PRESS LESS POSITIVE THAN THAT OF YESTERDAY. A NUMBER OF PAPERS DRAW ATTENTION TO RECENT STATEMENTS OF TURKISH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AND TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH AND CITE THEM AS FACTORS FOR LESSENED OPTIMISM. THE DENKTASH STATEMENT AS REPORTED BY THE TURKISH CYPRIOT NEWSPAPER "ZAMAN" CALLED FOR GREECE TO (A) RENOUNCE ENOSIS, (B) GUARANTEE TOGETHER WITH TURKEY ANY AGREEMENT

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MENT THAT MIGHT BE ACHIEVED, AND (C) REMOVE THE GREEK

CHURCH WHICH SUPPORTS ENOSIS FROM THE POLITICAL SECTOR (A CLEAR REFERENCE TO MAKARIOS).

2. THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVE HEADLINES GIVE FLAVOR OF THE VARIOUS JOURNALS' COVERAGE:
APOYEVMATINI (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT), "THE TURKS LAY MINE FIELDS IN THE TALKS: NEW INFLEXIBILITY ON PART OF DEMIREL AND DENKTASH"; TA NEA (LIBERAL, OPPOSITION), "HOPES IN VIENNA DIMINISHED: DENKTASH IS UNYIELDING"; ELEFTHEROTYPIA (LEFT-OF-CENTER, ANTI-U.S.), "SUDDENLY THERE IS AN IMPASSE"; ATHINAIKI (LEFT-OF-CENTER, PRO-PASOK), "NO PROGRESS IN THE TALKS"; KATHIMERINI (INDEPENDENT, PRO-GOVERNMENT), "FATE OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS TO BE DECIDED TODAY".

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF FEBRUARY 19, MFA DESK OFFICER FOR CYPRUS AFFAIRS STATED THAT NEGOTIATORS IN VIENNA ARE BASICALLY STILL DEALING WITH PROCEDURAL MATTERS AND HAVE NOT UP UNTIL NOW ENGAGED IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. ACCORDINGLY HE SAID THERE HAVE BEEN "NEITHER POSITIVE NOR NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS". HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BETWEEN DENKTASH AND CLERIDES TODAY. HE COMMENTED THAT GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE IS AWAITING RESPONSES FROM DENKTASH AS TO HOW TO APPROACH THE PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS CONSTITUTING THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

4. A HIGHLY PLACED AND WELL INFORMED SOURCE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR TODAY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS "HAVEN'T REALLY STARTED YET" IN VIENNA. THEY ARE STILL "TALKING ABOUT WHO WILL TALK FIRST". HOWEVER, THE SOURCE STATED, DENKTASH LET IT BE KNOWN YESTERDAY AFTERNOON THAT HE MAY REPEAT MAY HAVE RECEIVED "AUTHORIZATION" TO PUT FORWARD TODAY (THURSDAY) "PRINCIPLES OF A BI-ZONAL FEDERATION" THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE TURKISH SIDE.
IF SO, AND DEPENDING ON WHAT THESE PRINCIPLES ARE, THIS COULD MARK A SIGNIFICANT FORWARD STEP.

KUBISCH

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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